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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
ON 1952 WATER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM FOR CHINA

A series of resolutions passed by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government charting the water conservancy program for 1952 emphasizes the progress that has been made in flood control measures in East China. They indicate that the water conservancy program in China has developed from a small-scale, short-term, negative program to a basin-wide, long-range positive one.

The resolutions deal with the program under three main headings: flood control, drainage, and irrigation. Flood control measures call for the initiation and completion of the Ching Chiang Flood Diversion Project in the Yangtze River Valley in Hupeh, strengthening of dikes in the lower Yangtze valley, projects in Shantung, Kwangtung, the Tientsin area, and in Manchuria.

Drainage activities to benefit 20 million mou (one mou equals one-sixth acre) are called for. Large and small irrigation construction and repair projects to benefit 30 million mou are urged, as well as extra projects urgently called for by the people where water is available and technological problems simple. A 20-percent expansion of the irrigation progress is called for. Dredging and lock construction to facilitate inland water transportation, and the use of irrigation water power for production of electricity are urged.

The resolutions also provide for gearing conservancy projects in with agriculture to avoid holding up the latter, and to get the benefits of the projects to farmers at the earliest possible moment. Careful supervision to insure quality and fair wages for laborers are called for.⁷

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In its 129th executive session the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government of China passed a series of resolutions governing the national water conservancy program for 1952. A summary of the resolutions follows.

A. Progress in 1951

During 1951 special progress was made in flood control measures in the basins of the Huai, I and Shu rivers. Flood damage throughout the country was reduced 65 percent below that of 1950. The area under irrigation was increased by 121 percent over 1950, not including area added due to better controls in old irrigated areas. There was also a great increase in small-scale conservancy activities by the people, such as pond digging, that add much to production possibilities.

B. Over-All 1952 Program

In general, the water conservancy program has developed from a local to a basin-wide program, from a provisional to a permanent basis, from a negative to a positive program. The over-all 1952 program will require those responsible to take the following steps:

1. Continue antiflood measures to protect and promote agricultural production.
2. Greatly increase irrigated areas and controls of water utilization in order to increase production per unit.
3. Dredge inland streams, and repair canals to promote shipping and rural-urban commercial intercourse.
4. Expand basin-wide long-range planning and preparation for basic flood prevention, irrigation, electric power, and shipping to meet the economic needs of the people.
5. Pay special attention to organization and training of leadership cadres to insure success.

C. Detailed Conservancy Requirements for 1952

1. Antiflood measures:

Some 2.3 billion cubic meters of retention basin excavation is to be done in the central and upper reaches of the Huai River basin. This should be sufficient to prevent breaking of dikes below Yang-kuan /Yang-kuan-tien/ by a flood equaling in intensity even the 1950 flood. In the lower reaches the east dike of the grand canal requires strengthening for protection of this area.

In the central reaches of the Yangtze River the strengthening of the great Ching Chiang dike should continue, and the work on the Ching Chiang diversion basin dikes and the admission and control locks should be finished before the flood season begins.

At other points in the central and lower reaches of the Yangtze river dikes should be strengthened sufficiently to withstand flood waters equal to those of 1931 and 1950.

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The antiflood dikes in the Shih-t'ou-chuang and other areas should be strengthened to carry safely a flow of 23,000 to 29,000 cubic meters per second.

In the Chu Chiang basin the annual antiflood dike repairs should include raising the dikes somewhat above the 1950 level.

The work program for controlling the courses of the I and Shu rivers ought to be completed during 1950, ensuring a flood carrying capacity of 6,000 cubic meters per second for the I at Li-chia-chuang and 4,500 cubic meters per second for the Shu at Ta-kuan-chuang.

Work on the Yung-ting River flood diversion reservoir should be hastened so that it can be ready for use by the 1953 flood season.

Floods in the Sungari and Liao River systems in 1951 make it imperative that rapid measures be taken this year to prevent a recurrence and to initiate basic control programs.

On other rivers 1951 antiflood measures should be continued or accentuated.

2. Drainage Measures

Drainage measures should be carried out involving 20 million mou of land and making possible the growing of one and two crops in areas now subject to flood calamity because of insufficient natural drainage.

3. Irrigation

Irrigation operations in 1952 should provide for new construction, reconstruction, and expansion of existing systems to cover 30 million mou (including large-scale irrigation projects on 7 million mou and small-scale operations such as short canals, pond dikes, chain pumps, wells, etc., on an area of 23 million mou) and, insofar as possible, for advancement of the program of digging branch and retaining canals on individual farms so as to realize their benefits as early as possible.

To counter drought disaster, not only should the new projects planned be carried out speedily, but, insofar as possible, additional projects which the people are calling for particularly urgently should be added where conditions permit and technical problems are not especially difficult. With regard to rehabilitation projects in addition to those currently planned, further work may be undertaken on restoration of long-neglected or already reverted canals where the water supply for them is assured.

On the basis of present experience, democratic control, and economic use of water, the irrigation program in general can be expanded by 20 percent.

Hence, where control programs have already been set up they should be strengthened, and speedily extended to other areas. Research should be devoted to shallow irrigation in order to expand the area to meet current demands.

The project of taking water from the Yellow River for irrigation in the Wei River basin should benefit 200,000 mou this spring and 400,000 mou by summer.

The Lo-hui canal project should guarantee the irrigation of 400,000 mou. After completion of the Huang-yang lock in the Ho-t'ao area irrigation benefits should gradually extend from the present 1,100,000 mou to 2,800,000 mou.

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In North Kiangsu the earthwork on the main irrigation canals and the Kao-liang-chien and the locks east of the grand canal should be basically completed this year. These will form a basin for irrigating 25,800,000 mou.

The four great irrigation canals of the Northeast should be revived and extended, starting from where work was left off in 1951.

4. Small-scale but effective conservancy structures, such as ponds, dikes, ditches, small-scale canals, wells, springs, and anti-erosion measures, should be promoted and popularized in accordance with local conditions, and the strength of the masses mobilized and organized in support of them. In this way the varied experiences of the masses may be pooled and technical advice given. In areas where the water supply is limited, small-scale retention reservoirs may be constructed experimentally.

5. To meet the requirements of internal shipping, step-by-step dredging of internal streams and repair and construction of boat locks should proceed as planned. Among such projects are the dredging of the grand canal, the steamer channels at the mouth of the Chu Chiang and the Chia-ling Chiang, and repair and construction of locks at Tsao-ho-chen in North Kiangsu, Huang-tien-chiang in South Kiangsu, and on the Ch'i Chiang in southern Szechwan.

6. To promote the task of basic flood control of important rivers the work of investigation, surveys, and research and planning should be strengthened. Hydrological data, rainfall records, and water level topographic surveys are very important in planning such projects; hence, every station and crew must take their responsibilities seriously and see that the material in their reports is detailed, accurate, and dependable.

7. All possibilities latent in water supply sources should be exploited and plans made to employ them in meeting the varied needs of agriculture. All conservancy projects already completed should be exploited to the fullest possible extent at the earliest possible moment. Many flood diversion basins can be used for irrigation and hydroelectric power production. Boat locks may also be used to produce electricity. There is available water power in the water flowing from higher to lower levels in large-scale irrigation projects. All these possibilities, if exploited, can be of great value to the expansion of industry, agriculture, and the supplemental industries of farmers.

D. Tasks for 1952

For the fullest accomplishment of 1952 responsibilities the following things must be done:

1. In line with the campaign for elimination of corruption, waste, and bureaucracy, the 1952 plans and controls should be reassessed and those revised that do not fit in with basic reconstruction policies, with a view to reducing expenses and increasing work output.

2. However urgent a task may be, it should not be undertaken without adequate preparation.

3. To strengthen leadership there must be firm cooperation among administrative leaders, cadres, and technicians.

4. Patriotic indoctrination of the masses mobilized for these projects must be promoted and a proper priority adjustment made between agricultural operations and conservancy project operations. Proper prices should be paid the

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people for excavation work.

5. Conservancy projects should be carried out as early as possible to avoid conflict with spring planting operations, to provide against early floods, and to make irrigation benefits available early in the season.

6. To insure the quality of work on projects, the principle of individual responsibility should be gradually introduced as experience is gained.

7. Building projects should, insofar as possible, be carried out by workmen engaged directly, without contracts being let, in order to avoid loss due to penuriousness of contractors with labor and materials.

8. In handling earth and stone the piecework method should be followed and organized group competition encouraged to step up production.

9. Careful supervision of projects must be maintained to avoid hidden weaknesses; acceptance of finished work must hold to high standards.

10. All types of flood control and irrigation structures must be under frequent scrupulous inspection to provide against breakdowns and hidden weaknesses. Maintenance activity must be steady, particularly before flood seasons.

11. Directors of mass labor activities must assume responsibility for living quarters, food supply, security and safety, sanitation, and medical service in order to preserve high morale among workers.

E. Conclusions

Under the leadership of the Central People's Government, conservancy measures have made phenomenal progress. As the land reform program is completed, the demands of the people for more conservancy measures will be further accentuated. Leaders in this field throughout the country should be alive to the needs and possibilities and, taking advantage of the seasoning of our cadre force through the land reform struggle, should proceed to carry out conservancy measures that will add to the agricultural and industrial production of the country and the tranquility of the people.

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